

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 2, and 7-9 are pending. Claim 9 has been appended

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. It appears the reference to claim 9 is inadvertent, and that claim 8 is intended.

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Gayama (US 20020156830). It appears the reference to claim 9 is inadvertent as there are only eight claims as originally filed.

Section 101 Rejection

Claim 8 has been amended to recite a computer-readable storage medium having stored thereon a computer program. An illustrative embodiment is shown in Fig. 2. No new matter has been added. This amendment is believed to overcome the Section 101 rejection. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Section 102 Rejection

The present invention is directed to speech recognition. In embodiments of the present invention a likelihood for a specified phrase of a given speech signal can be computed, and a weighting factor (recited "constant") based on transitions among processes can be identified. In embodiments, a process can then be determined based on the likelihood and the constant. Illustrative embodiments are shown in Figs. 10A-10C and 11. The independent claims 1, 7, and 8 have been amended accordingly. No new matter has been added. For example, claim 1 recites in part:

A device control device for controlling equipment, comprising:
speech signal recognition and identification means which recognizes input speech signal, specifies a candidate for a phrase contained in the speech signal, and computes a likelihood of each specified phrase;
process-item data storing means which stores a plurality of process items indicated by the candidate for the phrase specified by said speech signal recognition means;
transition-definition data storing means (D5) which stores plural pieces of transition definition data defining transition from one process item in the plurality of

process items to another process item, in such a way that a process item indicated by the candidate for the phrase is associated with a constant;

device control means which determines a process item to be executed subsequent to a currently executed item based on the candidate for the phrase, the likelihood of the specified phase computed by said speech signal recognition and identification means, and the constant indicated by the transition-definition data, the device control means controlling said equipment in accordance with the determined process item; and ... (underlining for emphasis).

See also similarly amended claims 7 and 8.

By contrast, Gayama selects a candidate from among voice candidates based on common knowledge (paragraph [0071]), distance from current location to a candidate (paragraph [0073]), and behavioral pattern of a user (paragraph [0075]). As best understood, there is no teaching of computing a likelihood of a specified phrase contained in a speech signal, or indicating an associated constant, or determining a process based on likelihood and the constant. Gayama does not teach:

A device control device for controlling equipment, comprising:
speech signal recognition and identification means which recognizes input speech signal, specifies a candidate for a phrase contained in the speech signal, and computes a likelihood of each specified phrase;
process-item data storing means which stores a plurality of process items indicated by the candidate for the phrase specified by said speech signal recognition means;
transition-definition data storing means (D5) which stores plural pieces of transition definition data defining transition from one process item in the plurality of process items to another process item, in such a way that a process item indicated by the candidate for the phrase is associated with a constant;
device control means which determines a process item to be executed subsequent to a currently executed item based on the candidate for the phrase, the likelihood of the specified phase computed by said speech signal recognition and identification means, and the constant indicated by the transition-definition data, the device control means controlling said equipment in accordance with the determined process item; and ...

as recited in claim 1 and similarly in claims 7 and 8.

The dependent claims are believed to be allowable based on the allowability of their respective base claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date are respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,

/George B. F. Yee/

George B. F. Yee
Reg. No. 37,478

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 650-326-2400
Fax: 415-576-0300
GBFY:jis
62503935 v1